



State Senator

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VALDE GARCIA

Serving the 22nd District

Shiawassee-Livingston-Southern Ingham counties

Legislative Update

BREAKING NEWS FROM SENATOR GARCIA'S OFFICE **A Legislative Bulletin for Residents of the 22nd District**

Garcia's

BILL OF THE WEEK!



Senate passes Telecommunications Bill

HB 5237 was unanimously passed by the Senate this week and is now on its way to Governor Granholm's desk to be signed into law. The legislation will provide a major rewrite to the current telecommunications law. The bill sets basic requirements for telecommunication services.

Numerous bills were introduced this week!

Should you wish to learn more about the proposed legislation, please visit www.michiganlegislature.org and enter the bill number where indicated. The web-site will provide you with the bill's language as introduced and an analysis describing how the bill will affect area industry, the economy and consumers.

Senator Garcia is eager to learn how you feel about proposed legislation. He welcomes your responses via e-mail at senvgarcia@senate.michigan.gov.

Key points including regulations and requirements of this bill are:

- Regulations on charges to low-income and disabled customers for basic telecommunication services
- Companies are required to let customers make at least 100 outbound calls a month, the price of which is regulated by the MPSC. Customers who are disabled would not have their outgoing calls limited
- Phone companies are prohibited from disconnecting service for the deaf and disabled
- The state would set up a committee to study relay services for deaf customers
- Low-income individuals would have to be offered basic services at reduced rates
- Telecommunication carriers will be prohibited from requiring a customer to purchase a regulated service, such as telephone service, in order to purchase an unregulated service